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Date 15 MAY 1986

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Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

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13 MAY 1986

STAT

Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur
Attorneys At Law
1133 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

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Dear

This is in response to your letter of 17 April 1986 to the Director of Central Intelligence concerning your FOIA request

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on behalf of   Your letter to the Director has been referred to me for response.

Your letter states that you filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the CIA on 10 December 1982 for records relating to the disappearance in Columbia of two children of American citizens; that the CIA did not respond until 8 April 1986; and that the response identified three documents, released only one document of "extremely marginal relevance," and denied two others "without any indication of whether or not they contain any information which might be useful to the family."

Based on a review of the record, your account is neither complete nor accurate. It is correct that you filed a FOIA request on 10 December 1982; you neglect, however, to note that representatives of the CIA's Office of General Counsel contacted you thereafter and advised that two documents of particular relevance had been located, that these documents because of their form were exempt in their entirety pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3), but that because of humanitarian concerns the CIA would extract all information of substance, recast it in a new form, and provide it to your clients. This was done and was transmitted to you by our letter of 29 December 1983, a copy of which is provided herewith at Tab A.

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Thereafter, by memorandum of 7 August 1984, the Department of State forwarded to the CIA three documents which they had located pursuant to the FOIA request to that Department by your co-counsel, [   ] on 10 December 1982. In the CIA response to this referral, dated 8 April 1986, we advised you that three documents had been referred, that one could be released, and that the remaining two were exempt in their entirety (although the substance thereof had already been made available to you); we further reminded you of the existence and included copies of our earlier response which had included the substance of the exempt documents. A copy of this letter with attachments is provided herewith at Tab B.

As you can see, the Central Intelligence Agency responded in a most timely way to your urgent request -- in 1983 and not in 1986 as you allege, went far beyond the requirements of the FOIA by providing you the substance of clearly exempt information, and, when responding subsequently to a referral, advised you that you had previously received the exempt information in extracted form.

We sympathize with the disappointment of the parents that our information did not provide everything they hoped and regret that we possess no further information concerning their children. We trust that the foregoing demonstrates that the Central Intelligence Agency has discharged its obligations to you and your clients in a responsible and acceptable manner.

Sincerely yours,

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Director of Information Services

Enclosures

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